

Post & Opinion

One Dollar



Reform, Orthodox battle over bill before Congress

David Zwirol, executive vice president of Agudath Israel, joined the controversy. The question here," he said "is not one of intolerance of any person but rather of intolerance of the redefinition of timeless moral truths. There are numerous 'love'-based relationships that even the Reform movement is presumably unwilling to legitimate at this point." He added "it is sad that a group purporting to speak in the name of Judaism seems to be more concerned with what it imagines to defile the constitution than with what unarguably defiles the Torah."

A majority of students said to be taking drugs

Trustee Charles Corman expressed doubt when he said "the rabbi is clearly close to students but there must be doubts as to the accuracy of what can only be his impressions." He added that Hillel soundings suggested that drug use was on a far smaller scale.

Town Crier

Welcome, Michael Papo

By ED STATTMANN

New Federation Executive Vice President Michael Papo began his first week of work this week for our Federation.

It's expected the Federation will eventually introduce him to our community at an event that includes people from all over the Jewish community here.

He'll have his first chance to attend a Federation board meeting Tuesday, July 24.

We at the Post & Opinion welcome him and are expecting him to do as well here as he has in his previous posts — most recently as executive director of Israel Experience Inc.-Birthright, more commonly known as Birthright Israel. He has also had experience working for Federations in San Jose, Calif. and San Francisco, as well as with the Koret Foundation in San Francisco.

We know he'll have lots of support from local Federation officers, agencies and the community in general, because that has been the pattern of this community.

Scholarship awarded

WEST LAFAYETTE — The Purdue University computer science department has awarded a \$1,000 Corporate

Partners Program scholarship to Julia Vaysburd of Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers.

Lieberman: Dems need faithful

INDIANAPOLIS — Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., visited Indianapolis this week and used the opportunity to speak about faith and politics.

Lieberman had spoken freely about his own Jewish faith and moral principles during his vice presidential campaign.

He told news media gathered for the centrist Democratic Leadership Council meeting that Democrats need a better message to convince more of the people who regularly attend religious services that the Democratic Party should represent them.

"Some of it is our fault," Lieberman said. He said the Democratic message sometimes has seemed "to disparage the role of faith" and perhaps "has made the faithful feel unwelcome in the party."

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., agreed with Lieberman and added that Democrats also ought to have done better in gaining votes from married people, members of the military and gun owners.

The comments by

Lieberman and Bayh came during brief interviews at the opening reception for the meeting — called the DLC National Conversation.

Lieberman has long been seen as sympathetic to President George W. Bush's faith-based initiative for human re-

sources. Speaking in Indiana, he was right at home in a state where Gov. Frank O'Bannon's administration has been a leader in outreach to faith-based organizations as partners in providing services to the poor and other vulnerable populations.

Dr. Einhorn honored as 'Living Legend'

Indiana University cancer specialist Dr. Lawrence Einhorn will be honored July 27 as a "Living Legend" by the Indiana Historical Society along with other distinguished Hoosiers including The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, Dr. Otis Bowen and three others. Dr. Einhorn developed a chemotherapy regimen that has cured testicular, ovarian and lung cancers, saving countless lives.

Hesburgh, 84, served as the University of Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987.

Bowen was a small-town

doctor who rose to become Indiana's first two-term governor in recent history and later served as U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare.

Established by the society in 1999, Indiana Living Legends are Hoosiers who have made significant contributions to the state or society through their personal or professional endeavors.

The other honorees will be Indiana University professor and world-renowned jazz musician David Baker; Garfield cartoonist Jim Davis; and philanthropists Jane Owen and the J. Irwin Miller family.

They will be the honored guests at a black-tie event at the society's headquarters. Tickets are available for \$250 each by calling (317) 234-1313.

Children getting health screening

The Summer Health Assessment Program and Education (S.H.A.P.E.) project is offering free physical, dental, vision, hearing, blood-lead, and developmental screenings and health education throughout the

Continued on page 20

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Klan causing anxiety in northern Indiana

OFCEOLA, Ind. — Indiana's long deplorable association with the Ku Klux Klan continues at a northern Indiana farmstead where members of a Klan organization are holding target practice.

Members of the Anti-Defamation League from Chicago have been consulting with local officials about those activities and how they might be halted.

Richard Loy, grand dragon of the Church of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is not breaking the law in firing guns on his own property, but there is a chance those activities might be regulated, said David Barkey, Midwest civil rights counsel for the ADL.

Barkey and the ADL's Midwest director, Richard Hirschhau, were among a group of ADL officials who met with about 40 residents of the area and with local officials.

"I and several other representatives went to South Bend and spoke to the department of zoning, the mayors of South Bend and Mishawaka and the

St. Joseph County sheriff's office, Barkey said.

"We could try to develop some potential solutions within the law to constrain this activity and let these law abiding citizens live their lives peacefully."

He said the activities include cross burnings and rallies, paramilitary style bootcamp training and gunfire that causes anxiety to nearby residents.

"They fire toward a tree line behind which are residential homes," he said.

Barkey noted that the land had long been in hands of Loy's family, but had previously not been used for such disturbing events.

"I would say we're cautiously optimistic," Barkey said. He said there is the possibility that new local ordinances might outlaw some of the Klan's activities on the basis of zoning laws.

"We view this as a public safety issue. There is a tremendous risk of somebody getting hurt or having property damage, not to mention the fear

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The Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion

USPS 262-180

Published weekly by The Spokesman Co. Inc.

\$1 per copy

\$36 per year

City Editor

Ed Stettmann

Advertising

Barbara Lemaster

All communications involving editorial material should be addressed to 238 S. Meridian St., Suite 502, Indianapolis, IN 46225. 317 972-7800. Fax: 317 972-7807. All circulation correspondence should be addressed to The Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion, Subscription Department, 238 S. Meridian St., Suite 502, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

Changes of address and other circulation problems are handled by mail only. Please enclose a recent label from your copy of the paper showing your name and address.

All publicity must be in the office of the Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion by Wednesday, the week before publication. No publicity can be taken over the phone. Publicity photos must be in the office by Thursday the week before publication.

Known office of publication, 238 S. Meridian St., Suite 502, Indianapolis, IN 46225. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Indiana Jewish Post and Opinion, Subscription Department, 238 S. Meridian St., Suite 502, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

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City won't budge in monument case

Despite failure to gain its way in the Supreme Court, the city of Elkhart continues its fight over the Ten Commandments.

The city wishes to keep its commandments monument outside City Hall. In May, the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal the city brought seeking to overturn a Court of Appeals ruling that the monument was unconstitutional.

The case has been remanded back to U.S. District Judge Allen Sharp, who originally supported the city's stand.

Elkhart Mayor David Miller has said he will fight to the end to preserve the monument.

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Rona's Roving Reports

Sunday will be super for activities

By RONA TRACHTENBERG

On Sunday, July 22, 9 a.m., the JCC is hosting a one-day bus trip to Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, to visit and tour three historic sites.

The Old Jail Museum was completed in 1882. This is one of only seven known rotary jails. The cellblock consists of a two-tiered turntable. The Ben Hur Museum was built by General Lew Wallace for use as his private library. This location provided him with a quiet place to write his famous novel. It is now a national historic landmark.

The Lane Museum is a beautiful Greek revival home that has been totally restored. U.S. Senator Henry Lane built it in 1845. Lane's most noteworthy accomplishment was his involvement in securing the nomination of Abe Lincoln

for president and he served as pallbearer at Lincoln's funeral.

The fee of \$20 for JCC members and \$25 for non-members includes round-trip transportation and tours. To reserve your seat, please call Naomi at the JCC, 251-9467 ext. 227.

Sacred books

On Sunday, July 22, 10 a.m., Congregation Shaarey Tefilla will be cleaning the synagogue and sorting out old sacred texts that are too brittle for further use. According to Jewish law the only way to properly dispose of these holy books and other religious items is to perform a ritual burial ceremony/service (kevarat shemot).

Community members are

urged to help with the cleanup and share in the breakfast graciously provided by Matt Simon, of the United Orthodox Hebrew Cemetery Association. The date of the subsequent burial will be announced. Rabbi Arnold Bienstock would like to thank the Cemetery Association for their generous donation of burial space.

Fun under the lights

On Sunday, July 22, 5:30 p.m., the Young People's Chevra (YPC) will be having their next event at Victory Field. "It is hard to believe that this year is almost half over," said organizer Gary Stone.

This will be the Indians' only Sunday game of the month. The YPC group will be sitting in the outfield, so dig out your blankets and picnic baskets to watch the world famous Indians take on the Podunk Peacocks. The game starts at 6 p.m. Grandstand, bleacher and lawn seats (center field in the outfield) cost \$7. You can bring in your own food, but the coolers must be smaller than 24 quarts. Other restrictions are: no glass, no

alcoholic beverages and no chairs. They will check all coolers at the gate.

Alternatively, you can buy the healthiest junk food Indy has every seen at the concession stands. To purchase your ticket(s), go to the ticket office located in the outfield on West Street. This can be done anytime between now and the day of the game.

Unless Elvis shows up at the game, there should be plenty of seats and you can buy tickets at the gate without a problem. For those who want to caravan downtown, plan to meet at IHC at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Mark Steingold organized this event.

Unveiling for David Solooki

On Sunday, July 22, there will be an unveiling for David Solooki, who was a member of Congregation Etz Chaim.

Kids' baseball camp
From July 23 to 27 children

entering grades 3 to 8 in fall 2001 can learn to play baseball at this special JCC Camp. Indianapolis Indian players will instruct campers in catching, hitting and throwing skills as well as individualized position development.

Fee is \$125 for JCC members and \$165 for non-members. Call Rod Hofts, JCC Sports Camp Director, 251-9467 to sign-up today.

Correction and apology

I wish to apologize to professional photographer Scott Romer for inadvertently leaving out his photo credit in my June 27 story titled 'Israeli win medals at Police & Fire Games.' Israeli policeman runner Gidon "Gidi" Lind took the top photograph, while Romer shot the bottom photograph featuring the 22-member Israeli firefighter soccer team. Three Israelis returned home with medals.

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Monday, October 29, 2001 — 7:30 p.m. Clowes Memorial Hall
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Monday, November 12, 2001 — 7:30 p.m. DeHaan Fine Arts Center
The music of Vivaldi, Rodrigo and Schubert featuring guitarist Paul Galbraith

Monday, January 21, 2002 — 7:30 p.m. Clowes Memorial Hall
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Monday, February 25, 2002 — 7:30 p.m. Clowes Memorial Hall
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Sunday, April 7, 2002 — 2:30 p.m. Clowes Memorial Hall
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Obituaries

Robert a. Rose, 69, aided Jewish causes

Robert A. Rose, 69, a lawyer and civic leader, especially known for Jewish philanthropy, died Saturday, July 14.

A 50-year member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, he was past campaign chairman of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. He aided the resettlement of Russian Jews through the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and served on the society's national board of directors.

Mr. Rose was a partner of Dann Pecar Newman & Kleiman Professional Corp. for the past six years.

In 1958, he founded the Indianapolis law firm that later became Kineman Rose Wolf and Wallack. His legal practice specialized in real estate, corporate, securities and general business law.

Mr. Rose was a 1953 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1956 graduate of Columbia University Law School.

He helped organize The

Wholesale Club and negotiated in its eventual merger with Wal-Mart. He also served as an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Rose was a past president of Broadmoor Country Club and a member of Columbia Club, Wolf Run Golf Club and PGA West in La Quinta, Calif.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, the Indiana University Cancer Center or a favorite charity.

Services were July 16 in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Burial was in Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Cemetery South. Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Meridian Hills Mortuary handled arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Mann Rose; children Arthur R., Amy C., and Anthony J. Rose; brother Irwin R. Rose and four grandchildren.

Dr. Richard L. Falender, practiced dentistry

Dr. Richard L. Falender, 69, who practiced dentistry for 37 years, died Saturday, July 14.

Dr. Falender was a 1954 graduate of Indiana University and a 1957 graduate of the IU School of Dentistry.

His dental office was at 3701 Kentucky Avenue. He retired in 1997.

Dr. Falender was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and its Temple Brotherhood, Zeta Beta Tau Social Fraternity, Indianapolis District Dental Society, American Dental Association and Psi Omega.

Survivors include his wife,

Baby Julia Ratzman is being mourned

Julia Ratzman, 2 months old, died Monday, July 16 in Riley Hospital.

She was the daughter of Cheryl and David Ratzman and left two siblings, her twin, Adam, and sister, Emma.

Gerri Wheeler, 56, died in Knoxville

Gerri Wheeler, 56, formerly of Indianapolis, died Wednesday, July 11, in Knoxville, Tenn.

Mrs. Wheeler was born Gerri DeLott in Indianapolis.

She was a homemaker and was the wife of Charlie Wheeler, who survives her.

Other survivors include a daughter, Suzanne Brown; a son, Jacob Wheeler; parents

Services were Tuesday, July 17, at the graveside at Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

Oscar and Thelma "Tanya" Weiss DeLott; a brother, Steven DeLott; and a sister, Cynthia Edwards.

Services were at the graveside on Thursday, July 12, in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Meridian Hills Mortuary.

Critic's Corner

The 'Lost Empire' is still lost

By CHARLIE EPSTEIN

Walt Disney Pictures' latest adventure in animation feature films is *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*. This is such a fantastic picture that it is very difficult



to criticize. The animation is stupendous, the actors' voices are terrific. The musical score is magnificent, even though there is no song until the end credits.

Then what is this film lacking?

That is easy to answer. It is the story.

The screenplay is by Tab Murphy, based upon a storyline by him and five other writers. It is no wonder this thing is so mixed up. One is reminded of the black and white B science fiction films of the 1950s, spectacular but no story. Another disappointing aspect of this movie is that once *Atlantis* is found, it is not astounding. It did not seem as if *Atlantis* had an advanced civilization. There were a few scientific improvements but nothing of what at least I expected.

Getting back to the superb vocal acting, Michael J. Fox stars as Milo Thatch, a naive but determined museum cartographer who dreams of completing a quest by his late grandfather, that of finding *Atlantis*: the lost empire. Capt. Rourke leads the dangerous expedition to the elusive undersea kingdom. Rourke is wonderfully voiced by James Garner. The billionaire who finances the trip is voiced by John Mahoney.

The crew of the ship contains the voices of Don Novello, who is more familiar as father Guido Sarducci, and the late Jim Varney.

Leonard Nimoy vocalizes the part of the stern Atlantean king. The cast also includes the vocal abilities of David Ogden Stiers, Florence Stanley, Cree Summer, Jacqueline Obrador, Phil Morris and Claudia Christian.

Another fabulous credit must go to James Newton

Howard, whose epic original musical score is extravagantly imagined.

Again, I must admit that the animated feature film *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* is fantastic yet disappointing at the

same time. I blame it on the weak story and the lack of ingenuity in creating *Atlantis*.

Time will tell whether moviegoers will agree with me.

Klan

Continued from page 3
that has been instilled."

The Klan was at its most powerful in Indiana in the 1920s, when it was headed by D.C. Stephenson. Roman

Catholics and Jews were among its major opponents — Catholics especially, because there were more Catholics than Jews.

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Hebrew Academy event lauds Nadlers, Skok

By RONA TRACHTENBERG

The Hasten Hebrew Academy held its 30th annual HAI-Life Awards Dinner on Sunday, June 3, at the Laikin Auditorium in the Jewish Community Center. As always, the event was a warm festive black tie optional gala fund-raiser for central Indiana's only Jewish Day School. Federation President Benton Marks charmed the audience as master of ceremonies. Carl and Shirley Cohen were the dedicated dinner chairs for the event.

Each year Academy supporters, community leaders, luminaries or dignitaries are honored with the coveted HAI-Life Distinguished Service Award. This year's recipients were Harry and Ellen Nadler.

The Nadlers have been heavily involved with the Academy and the community for all of their 17 years in Indianapolis. Harry is the former executive vice president of the Federation. He was instrumental in helping to build the Jewish Community Campus. He was a major in-



Hart N. Hasten, Hasten Hebrew Academy president (left) awards Harry and Ellen Nadler with the 2001 HAI-Life Distinguished Service Award.

fluence in forging new relationships between the Federation and the Academy.

Ellen is leaving the Academy for Florida after 17 years of service as an outstanding teacher. For the last several years she has also been a guidance counselor. One of her legacies is the school's com-

munity service program that she established.

Hart Hasten, Hasten Hebrew Academy president, presented the Nadlers, not only with the HAI-Life Distinguished Service Award but also with Sagamores of the Wabash from Gov. Frank O'Bannon and a proclamation



Sandi Marks (upper left) and Benton Marks, master of ceremonies with honorees Harry and Ellen Nadler.

from Mayor Bart Peterson declaring June 3, 2001 Harry and Ellen Nadler Day.

The Academy also presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award to retiring teacher Susie Skok. She served the Academy and its students for 27 years of her 30-year teaching career. Skok has taught almost every subject at the school and twice served as acting principal twice. Her most enduring legacy is the technology center she organized and maintained. She has been very active as a mother, grandmother, teacher, technology coordinator, businesswoman, gardener, volunteer and more. Her honors at the event included a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana's highest honor awarded by the state government.

Along with all these honors the evening included funny and moving videos of the honorees. The honorees contributed their own nostalgic, thankful and touching remarks.

Health

Continued from page 2
summer at the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center, 2055 N. Senate Ave-nue, to children in selected summer programs.

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Jewish Post & Opinion

Peace near?

It is possible that the PLO and Israel are closer to reaching a final settlement — peace — than seems reachable as the explosive incidents bringing grief to both sides break out almost day by day.

This view has validity because the PLO must know fairly well by today just about how much more it can achieve by adding to the toll of Israeli and its own dead. Mr. Arafat has shown ability to achieve his goals no matter how many on both sides lose their lives, which is a clue to the fact that he is a realist and that should indicate that the end of the fatal eruptions is near.

Jerusalem is the outstanding problem as well as the return of those Arabs who fled over the years but some way to satisfy the true needs of both sides is not impossible to be found. In fact the outlines of a resolution of the problem are more or less visible to the point where additional deaths of Israelis and Palestinians may not warranted.

Several important decisions — on Jerusalem and the number of Palestinians who have fled over the years allowed to return have yet to be made but the outline of what is possible is fairly well understood by both Israel and the PLO.

New reference work cited as outstanding

NEW YORK — The American Library Association (ALA) recently recognized the Encyclopedia of Judaism (Leiden, E.J. Brill & NYC, Continuum, 1999) as an Outstanding Reference Source for 2001 in the religion category.

The Encyclopedia was one of only three references works chosen. Co-published by Brill and Continuum International Publishing Group for North America in conjunction with the Museum, the three-volume encyclopedia took five years to complete. Editor-in-Chief Jacob Neusner is a Research Professor of Religion and Theology and Senior Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Technology at Bard College. Editors are Alan J. Avery-Peck, Kraft Professor of Judaic Studies at Holy Cross College, and William Scott Green, Dean of the College at University of Rochester. Dr. David Altshuler, director of the Trust of Jewish Philanthropy and the founding director of the Museum, is chairman of the editorial board.

"The Encyclopedia of Judaism is an essential resource for those interested in learning more about Jewish life," said Museum President Dr. Alfred Gottschalk. "The Museum's involvement is part of a larger effort to teach the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity in our society by providing accurate information for educators and the general public."

Experts from around the world contributed to make the encyclopedia a reliable account of Jewish history, religion, and literature spanning 4000 years. The Museum's Board of Trustees adopted the project in 1996 and guided the planning of entries and assignments to individual scholars. The Encyclopedia features more than 80 artifacts, documents, and photographs from the Museum's collection.

To obtain a copy of the Encyclopedia of Judaism, contact the Museum Shop at (212) 786-0820 ext. 102.

The Museum is located on the waterfront of Battery Park City at 18 First Place in Manhattan. Overlooking both Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, the Museum uses personal stories and a core exhibition of more than 2,000 photographs, 800 artifacts, and 24 original films to present the 20th century Jewish experience to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Editor's Chair

We've seen little comment anywhere about our promotion of a once a month attendance by every American Jew, whether or not a member of a congregation, of services at least, with the emphasis on at least, once a month.

The American Jewish community is engaged in promoting visits to Israel as a sign of support at this time of its problem with the PA and that involves not only time but also expense while to attend services not only costs nothing, even if one is not a member, and not only is free but is rewarding in a way that requires no explanation here.

We would urge that no national effort be launched by any rabbinical organization but that individual rabbis make the effort and thus persuade the rabbinical world that this promotion is the answer to the avoidance by today's Jews of Sabbath services, even so by the boards of congregations.

Only one rabbi of the thousands who conduct services every Sabbath has called on his congregation to attend services at least once a month to our knowledge but we can assume that every rabbi would get excited if his or her congregants were to accept such a challenge.

And we believe that not many but most American Jews would gladly attend services at least that often and that our rabbinical organizations should give consideration to our proposal on the basis that although regular Sabbath attendance is most desirable, at least once a month attendance is a step in the right direction.

We are not a prophet nor the son of a prophet but we do know the American Jewish community as well as or better than do most rabbis since we belong to it plus have been involved intimately with it — not only with sabbath services but with our national Jewish organizations (except the exclusively female ones) for a lifetime.

Of course probably the best approach would be for our national women's organizations to, as a body, promote once a month Sabbath service attendance but that requires some doing and there is no assurance that Hadassah or the National Council of Jewish Women would con-

sider such an effort but the Sisterhoods, were the rabbis to suggest it to them, would happily launch such a campaign plus it would be successful as is everything else Jewish women undertake community-wise.

Along with such a campaign there could be offered the same welcoming approach to all Jewish families who currently are not members of a congregation.

There is no question but that any rabbi proposing once a month (at least) attendance at services would find almost universal acceptance by his congregants although he may have to base the appeal on respect for himself personally but in an indirect way.

The real question is what would happen later on — would regular weekly attendance result? It most certainly would, we believe, as not only would habit take hold but the individual Jew would find himself where he belongs as one who has obligations and rewards and would wonder why he had not attended services regularly long ago.

For those who recall the days when Jews ruled both in professional basketball and boxing as do Blacks today it should be remembered that the Jewish community in those days was in the same position as are Blacks today — seeking full recognition.

We speak with authority since we personally were part of the athletic scene in the days when Jews were in the same relationship to general acceptance as are Blacks today.

There was the day when Jewish boxers were in the same relationship to world championships as are Blacks today — a Jew was world champion all along the way from flyweight to heavyweight.

The lesson is that Blacks will lose their domination in sports in the same way as have Jews and fortunately so because that means full acceptance for Blacks just as Jews enjoy today and they can seek success in all endeavors as does the general population.

Fleisher loses, wins \$135,000

DEARBORN, Mi. — Bruce Fleisher didn't win the PGA Senior Players tourney here

but he did bank \$135,000 as his score of 278 tied with that of Ed Dougherty was five

strokes behind winner Allen Doyle.

HOW TO KILL A BUSINESS IN TEN EASY STEPS

1. Don't advertise. Just pretend every body knows what you have to offer.
2. Don't advertise. Tell yourself you just don't have the time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
3. Don't advertise. Just assume everybody knows what you sell.
4. Don't advertise. Convince yourself that you've been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
5. Don't advertise. Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were urged to do so.
6. Don't advertise. Forget that you have competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
7. Don't advertise. Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise and that you don't get enough out of it.
8. Don't advertise. Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling — not an expense.
9. Don't advertise. Be sure not provide an adequate advertising budget for business.
10. Don't advertise. Forget that you have to keep reminding your established customers that you appreciate their business.

You decide... it's your business in good times or bad.

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Terrorists' error is fatal; Hebron strife worsens

JERUSALEM — As two Palestinians died here apparently trying to assemble a bomb near the stadium holding the Jewish Olympics, Israeli tanks rolled into Hebron and destroyed five police posts operated by Force 17, a Palestinian unit that Israel accuses of repeated shooting and bomb attacks in the past 10 months of fighting.

Hebron is the only West Bank town divided into Israeli and Palestinian zones, with Israel soldiers controlling the center where some 450 Jewish settlers live in three enclaves.

After two Jewish settlers were shot and killed Israeli tanks moved briefly into the Palestinian part of the city and destroyed five police posts.

Meanwhile the Cabinet approved a plan to build new communities near the Gaza Strip on territory the previous government had considered giving to the Palestinians in a land-swap deal.

Reform rabbis honor Rabbi Leo E. Turitz

MONTEREY, Calif. — The nation's Reform rabbis honored Rabbi Leo E. Turitz recently for co-founding the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY).

Turitz, 89, was presented with the Rabbi Samuel Cook Award for Lifetime Achievement in Youth Work at the convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

In the early 1940s, Turitz planted the seed for NFTY by contacting Rabbi Cook with the suggestion, "Let's get our kids together!" He organized the first youth conventions in Pennsylvania, leading to the concept of NFTY.

Turitz was graduated from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1938. In 1963 NFTY honored him with Life Membership. He pioneered NFTY's National Institutes. The Rabbinic Alumni Association in 1998 honored him for his services to the Reform youth of America and his role in founding and building NFTY.

Known as the "shlepping Rabbi," he filled his car with kids and luggage whom he shlepped to meetings and camps.

Over the years, NFTY has had a powerful Jewish influence on tens of thousands of Reform Jewish youth, many of whom went on to become rabbis, educators, and leaders in their congregations and Jewish communities. In addition, thousands of marriages are attributable to friendships formed in NFTY.

E-mail newsletter sorts Mideast myths, facts

Scholar Mitchell G. Bard is distributing a weekly feature by e-mail and on the Internet called "Myths & Facts Online - a Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict."

The P-O does not intend to carry the whole series, but here's a sample:

MYTH: "Jerusalem is an Arab City."

FACT

Jews have been living in Jerusalem continuously for nearly two millennia. They have constituted the largest single group of inhabitants there since the 1840's. Jerusalem contains the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism.

Jerusalem was never the capital of any Arab entity. In fact, it was a backwater for most of Arab history. Jerusalem never served as a provincial capital under Muslim rule nor was it ever a Muslim cultural center. For Jews, the entire city is sacred, but Muslims revere a site - the Dome of the Rock - not the city.

"To a Muslim," observed British writer Christopher Sykes, "there is a profound difference between Jerusalem and Mecca or Medina. The latter are holy places containing holy sites." Besides the Dome of the Rock, he noted, Jerusalem has no major Islamic significance (Encounter, February 1968).

The articles are on the World Wide Web at <http://www.jewishVirtualLibrary.org>.

Jewish All-American cage teams announced

LOS ANGELES — The Jewish Sports Review in its May/June issue has belatedly chosen a Jewish All-America basketball team including David Blumenthal of USC at forward, Israel Sheinfeld of Wright State at Center and three guards, Andrew Gellert of Harvard, David Klatsky of the U. Of Pennsylvania and Tamar Goodman of Towson.

The Review explained its selection of three guards as "in order to field our best quintet."

Eleven others accorded "honorable mention," an unusually large category, included David Abromowitz, San Diego State; Elan Buller, Pepperdine; Shey Cohen, Niagara; Roy Goffer, Mississippi State; Jordan Kardos, Illinois at Chicago; Dan Kauderer, New Hampshire; Daniel Kohn, Fullerton State; Matt Minoff, Yale; David Schloss, Albany; Dan Solomito, Penn. and Paul Vitelli, Yale.

Division II and III teams also were selected including Dan Florian of Suffolk and Yosef Gev of Yeshiva at forward, Elad Inbar at center and

Eyal Lieb and Uri Grunwald at guard.

Honorable mention included Sam Goldberg of Oglethorpe, Eli Hami of Yeshiva U., Alan Karfin of Ursinus, Justin Luber of Florida Tech, Shahar Nachmias of UMass at Lowell, Brett Nishibayshi of Carthage, Jon Schwarzon, team not noted, Brian Shapiro, Tufts; Scott Wallach, Trinity, and Jack Zulzary, Yeshiva U.

For the first time a women's collegiate basketball All-American team has been selected by the Jewish Sports Review including Aornit Schwartz of William & Mary and Windy Gabbe of UC Irvine at forward, Jennifer Linker of Cornell at center and Laine Selwyn of Pittsburgh and Shiri Sharon of Duquesne at guard. Schwartz and Sharon are Israelis.

Jewish Sports Review also chose Division II and III women's all-America teams including Rayna Zacks, Glencoe, IL, and Emil Goodman, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., at forward, Rachel Zimet, Trumansburg, N.Y., at center, and Bess Greenberg of SUNY and Shira Fishman of Tufts at guard.

Gottschalk will quit Museum also

NEW YORK — Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk who resigned recently as president of Hebrew Union College will resign also on July 31 as president and chief executive officer of the Museum of Jewish Heritage for personal reasons. He will be succeeded by Dr. David G. Marwell, the museum's director.

Stolen Chagall, reward is \$25,000

NEW YORK — The Jewish Museum here is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of a stolen Chagall oil painting, "Study for Over Vitebsk." The painting is said to be worth \$1 M. and belongs to a collector in St. Petersburg who has been informed of the theft which took place at a party to launch the Chagall show.



ARE THEY STILL SMILING? — This is not a new photo; and whether the two dignitaries would be smiling if they were to meet this week is a good question. Fortunately, they are working together to achieve what everyone hopes for — an end to the intifada and an agreement that could bring peace to Israel. For the record they are U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

A new era is here!

The Jewish

Post & Opinion

O N L I N E

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Mouse by today.

Obituaries

Amos Perlmutter dies, author of 15 books

WASHINGTON — Amos Perlmutter, the author of 15 books and commentator on Middle Eastern affairs died at the age of 69. His final newspaper column, "Arafat's Failed Utopia" appeared in the Jerusalem Post on June 8.

He was the author of a biography, "The Life and Times of Menachem Begin" that became a best seller and appeared in pirated Arabic version.

He contributed essays and commentary to op-ed pages of several newspapers including the New York Times and other American dailies plus the Times of London, Maariv and Haaretz, two leading Israeli dailies.

Rabbi Schulem Rubin, sermons drew crowds

NEW YORK — Rabbi Schulem Rubin who served as spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Pelham Parkway for more than half a century, died a few minutes before what would have been his 75th birthday.

His congregation drew more than a thousand worshippers on the Sabbath because of his spellbinding forensic ability. He served as president of the National Council of Young Israel Rabbis.

Benjamin Kahn, of B'nai B'rith

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith from 1971 to 1976, died at the age of 87. He was elected executive vice presi-

dent for life when he retired in 1976. He served as director of the Hillel Foundations from 1959 to 1971. He had been assistant rabbi of Congregation Anshe Emet in Chicago.

Marvin Gold, 74, dies in Biloxi

BILLOXI — Marvin Gold, chairman and professor of the Department of Special Education at the University of South Alabama, died at the age of 74.

He was executive director of the Mobile Arts Council and was a board member of the Springhill Avenue Temple.

Hal Goodman, Emmy winner

LOS ANGELES — Joke writer Hal Goodman, who won an Emmy Award and provided punch lines for Jack Benny and George Burns, died at the age of 81. He won

a third Emmy in 1966 for his material on a Carol Channing special and earned a Writers Guild Award in 1986 for "George Burns' 90th Birthday Salute."

Dr. Morton Klass, Barnard prof

NEW YORK — Dr. Morton Klass who taught for more than 30 years at Barnard College and who focused his research on the people of South Asia and their descendants in the West Indies, died at the age of 73. His examination of the anthropology of

religion resulted in the textbook, "Ordered Universes" which remains in print as do several of his books.

He served in the Marines in the 1940's.

He taught for more than 30 years at Barnard College and Columbia University.

Arnold Peyser, wrote scripts

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Peyser, who with his wife wrote scripts for tv shows,

died at the age of 80. He began his career writing for the radio comedian Fred Allen.

Leonard Pines, of meat firm

FT. LAUDERDALE — Leonard Pines who led Hebrew National into dominance in the kosher delicatessen meat field, died here at the

age of 90. The company was sold to Riviana Foods in 1968 but Mr. Pines bought it back in 1980.

Mayer Potamkin succumbs at 91

PHILADELPHIA — Meyer Potamkin, banker who was honored by Israel Bonds in 1973, died at the age of 91. He and his wife assembled one of the nation's finest private collection of American art.

A noted athlete he played championship basketball and football in high school and won a scholarship from Dickinson College. He earned a master's degree from Temple University.

He was the president of the Boulevard Mortgage Company.

Harold Reingold, Houston educator

HOUSTON — Harold A. Reingold, founder and first president of the Jewish Educators Council, died at the age of 74. He also was a founder and past president of the Houston Interfaith Religious Educators Association. From 1949 to 1960 he was city director for B'nai B'rith youth groups and director of religious education at Congregation Emanu El and also at Congregation B'rith Shalom. He was a member of the executive committee of the National Association of Temple Educators.

Abe Shrader, garment maker

NEW YORK — Death at the age of 100 came to Abe Shrader, a garment manufacturer who died on the Abe Shrader Floor of Beth Israel Medical Center here. He shared his fortune with a number of charities including Jewish organizations aiding Israel.

Bea Stadler, noted author

CLEVELAND — Bea Stadler whose books for teenagers were widely read died at the age of 79. Her book, "A History of Courage and Resistance," is widely read in religious schools and it won her an award for the best juvenile title in 1975 from the Jewish Book Council.

She worked for the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies for 23 years as a registrar until her retirement in 1983.



Mystery Person Kupcinet doing column since 1935

Reader Bernie Eggner of Carmel, Ind., got in under the wire to guess our Mystery Person, veteran Chicago journalist Irv Kupcinet.

We had reached our limit of five clues about Kupcinet, known for his long-running "Kup's Column" of gossip and information about important or noteworthy people who dwell in or pass through the Chicago area.

Our first clue, that the Mystery Person first made a name in college sports, referred to his football prowess as a student at the University of North Dakota.

We continued the sports thread with the second clue, that our Mystery Person has served as a football commentator. He was a TV commentator for a time for Chicago Bears games.

Next we mentioned the Mystery Person had hosted a TV show. He hosted Kup's Show in Chicago from 1959 to 1986.

Next we said there is a bridge named for the Mystery Person. The Wabash Avenue Bridge over the Chicago River was dedicated in 1986 as the Irv Kupcinet Bridge.

Finally, we said he is a prominent journalist. He began writing his column for the Chicago Daily Times in 1935.



Irv Kupcinet

That newspaper and the Chicago Sun merged in 1943 to become the Sun-Times, which has carried his column ever since.

"Kup" is a Chicago native, born July 31, 1912. He has received an Emmy, a Peabody Award and numerous civic and professional awards. He served as vice president of the Dr. Jerome D. Solomon Memorial Fund and is a member of the Newspaper Guild, Tau Delta Phi, the National Press Club and the Chicago Press Club.

He attended Northwestern University and the University of North Dakota.

During World War II, he helped raise money for the U.S. Treasury as a special consultant in charge of columnists for the War Finance Division.

Jerusalem's former mayor is feted at 90th birthday

JERUSALEM — Although not too many American Jews remember the long reign of Teddy Kollek as mayor of Jerusalem, his 90th birthday was celebrated at a bash attended by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and former Prime Minister Barak.

Vienna-born Mr. Kollek, generally known as Teddy, emigrated to Palestine in 1924 and started his new life on Kibbutz Ein Gev. He later helped Allied intelligence contact Jewish underground groups in Nazi Europe and even met Adolf Eichmann in 1939 in an effort to persuade him to release 30,000 Jews held in concentration camps.

He later headed underground operations in the U.S. for the Haganah. Elected Jerusalem mayor in 1965 he oversaw the unification of the city in the 1967 war, ordering that the wall which divided the city be torn down.

He works daily with the Jerusalem Foundation, which he set up in 1966 to mobilize funds and talents to accomplish projects such as the Liberty Bell Park and the sports arena known as Teddy Stadium.

Alcott ill but back in action

SANTA MONICA, Ca. — Amy Alcott was in good condition at home here after withdrawing from the final round of the James Farr Kroger Classic in Sylvania, Oh. with chest pains. She had suffered from dehydration and a slight viral

infection. She plans to play in the Big Apple Classic at New Rochelle, N.Y. next week.

She is 45 years old and was inducted into the Ladies Professional Golf Association Hall of Fame last year.

Media Watch

'Left Luggage' a wise look at sorrows

By RABBI ELLIOT B. GERTEL

Left Luggage is the only film I can recall that brought tears to my eyes days after leaving the theater. It is an emotionally powerful film,



maybe a little manipulative. But I can forgive any stolen tears because the movie is so affecting and engaging on many different levels. And how many films today have more than one level of meaning?

Based on the novel, *The Shoel and the Loom*, by Carl Friedman, the screenplay is effectively crafted by Edwin de Vries. The film is directed by Jeroen Krabbe, who also plays the father in a Hasidic family.

It seems that young Chaja or Chaya, memorably and scintillatingly portrayed by Laura Fraser, is at the height of youthful rebellion at the ripe old age of 19. Living in her own apartment in her native Antwerp, Chaja hardly visits her Holocaust survivor parents, is at the end of her rope at her job as a waitress, doesn't seem to be applying herself to her college studies in philosophy, and is even fed up with her dashing gentle boyfriend, a Marxist agitator whom she finds boringly ideological at rallies and in bed.

One can understand her revolt. Her parents cannot forget or let her forget the horrors of the Holocaust. Her mother (Marianne Sägebrecht) weaves and bakes cakes to distract herself from her losses, and her father (Maximilian Schell) has taken up digging around high rise buildings in a frantic effort to relocate luggage containing precious family heirlooms that he had buried after the Nazi occupation.

Her parents relate to her differently — the father, indulgent and constantly telling her about the luggage he buried; and the mother, incessantly criticizing her hair, her manner of dressing, and her career

choices ("Be a doctor. We don't need philosophers.") while trying to stuff her with cake and chicken soup.

The only times her parents connect with each other or with Chaja are when they point out to one another how the effects of the Holocaust dominate their everyday life. When Chaja's mother berates her husband for his obsession with digging up a lost and irreplaceable past, he lashes back, "You want to bury the past under a pile of cakes."

The only tender moment between mother and daughter (and, indirectly, between father and mother) is when

scholar, "I hate Jews," adding that she is fed up with things Jewish and with hearing about the war.

Yet the need to pay her rent and to maintain her "freedom" forces Chaja to seek employment as a nanny to a Hasidic family, the Kalmans. Her parents' neighbor, the old Hebrew scholar (played with pleasant restraint by Chaim Topol) informs her of the position, and gently prods her into it, even, or especially, after her tirade about Jews.

When she first hears of this family, she asks: "How Jewish are they?" "Very Jewish," he replies.

Indeed, this film speaks wisely to the issues of feminism. It makes its point with dignity that liberation is not reckless abandon, that it entails, as much or even more as self-preservation, the capacity to be concerned about, and to stand up for, others, particularly children. Left Luggage is respectful of Hasidic life without glorifying it in judgment of modern women. Indeed, it is sympathetic to the pressures on Hasidic matrons, particularly around Passover time. Mrs. Kalman suffers a near breakdown in preparing for the holiday, and complains bitterly that her husband is no help. In the touching scene, Chaja offers to help the sobbing young mother "if there are no rules against it." Mrs. Kalman is quick to assert that there are no such rules, and that she will gladly accept the assistance.

Chaja's mother observes knowingly of her husband and of herself: "We've become lost people. Not luggage he lost, but himself."

Understandably, but tragically, though not inexorably, there is no joy in being Jewish or in Jewish observance in Chaja's home or in her life. We are not surprised when she tells a neighbor, a religiously observant Hebrew

Reluctantly, Chaja interviews for the position, meeting the beautiful young Hasidic mother (affectingly played by Isabella Rossellini), and, despite instant cultural clashes, she is captivated by the family's beautiful 4-year-old son (Adam Monty, a standout) who, for mysterious reasons, cannot talk. In short order, Chaja becomes a great help to the mother, a salvation

to the little boy, who starts to talk because of her, and a fierce fighter for her young ward against a bullying Neo-Nazi concierge and, shockingly, against the boy's own father, who resents Chaja's immodest dress and, even worse, who seems unduly harsh with the lad, even after the adorable child learns the "Four Questions" for the Passover seder.

Yet Chaja is unable to save the boy or his family from grief and sorrow. For the shadow of the Holocaust is very much in this home, as well, as Chaja finds that out in the boldest possible way.

This is one profound movie, in characterization, plot, and visual effectiveness. One could, for example, write at length on the motif on speech and silence in this motion picture. All speech and silence here is in some way determined by the Holocaust: the boy's refusal to speak no less than Chaja's confrontational style, her father's storytelling, her mother's and the boy's father's criticisms, and the boy's mother's inability to confront her husband on the major issues.

Long before the film ends, Chaja — and we — realize she shares a bond with the little boy and even with his father because of the horrors of the Holocaust. It is somehow that bond which enables her — and the audience — to deal with the unbearable.

At the end of the movie Mrs. Kalman embraces Chaja at a shiva before Chaja's bitter detractors, quoting from the last chapter of the Book of Proverbs, and telling Chaja: "Many women have done valiantly, but you surpass them all."

The reference is not to Chaja's occasional in-your-face, dare devil tactics, but to her ability to face grief, to share it, and hopefully not to be as bound to it as all her family and friends have seemed to have been.

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Left Luggage is respectful of Hasidic life without glorifying it in judgment of modern women. Indeed, it is sympathetic to the pressures on Hasidic matrons, particularly around Passover time. Mrs. Kalman suffers a near breakdown in preparing for the holiday, and complains bitterly that her husband is no help. In the touching scene, Chaja offers to help the sobbing young mother "if there are no rules against it." Mrs. Kalman is quick to assert that there are no such rules, and that she will gladly accept the assistance.

There is definitely an undercurrent here that the seemingly small frustrations of women in traditional religious life are grievous needs that should be redressed. But there is also clear and admirable questioning of whether the shedding of traditional sexual mores in the name of "freedom" has led to greater happiness or wiser choices.

Anti-Semitism in the wake of the Holocaust is also addressed, and knowingly, in *Left Luggage*, and on various levels. A nasty "concierge," actually, janitor, in the Kalmans' building at first seems like comic relief, and then comes to personify the menacing evil that inheres in "small" anti-Semitic remarks and acts.

Likewise, Chaja's closest friend and neighbor, with whom she shares her most intimate thoughts, makes a remark about Jews and is taken aback when Chaja tells her that she is Jewish. While this does indicate that Chaja has never discussed her Jewishness with her confidante, it points to the shallowness and viciousness of those who are convinced that they could never be friends with Jews in the first place.

Chaja's friend breaks into the proverbial, "You don't look Jewish," whose response is the by-now proverbial, "What do Jews look like?" But the erstwhile best friend goes farther. She says something about Jews bringing "it" on themselves because they "don't adapt." Immediately ending the relationship, Chaja retorts, "We're killed whether we adapt or not."

At that moment, it seems
Continued on page 14

As I Heard It

Heritage worth preserving

By MORTON LODZ

I was pleased to receive a long letter as well as a cassette from Masha Benya, AKA Masche Benya-Matz (Benyakonsky.) Along with



these materials was a copy of an interview with Ms. Benya written by Rebecca Rovit from the book "Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust" co-authored with Alvin Goldfarb and published by John Hopkins University Press in 1999.

Ms. Benya has a long memory and recalled singing once with my father one Sunday in the early 40's on the radio (WEVD). (He was) "a tall handsome gentleman with a beautiful voice." That was my dad all right.

She appeared briefly in a PBS documentary about Isa Kremer shown last December in New York. The connection with Ms. Kremer is that Ms. Kremer and my father (Leon

Gold) appeared in the same show where my father introduced the song "Mein Shetele Belz" and their pictures are on the original sheet music.

I dare say that Ms. Benya would make a more than interesting subject for a special in her own right as her experiences in the 1930's as an expatriate Lithuanian student studying music in Berlin alone would qualify her for this. She came to the States in 1938 and the rest "as it is said" is history.

She was an artistic and professional singer in the New York metropolitan area and has also made many recordings. "After she retired from professional singing, she became a teacher of Hebrew, Yiddish art, and folk song. She taught until her retirement in 1995 at the Hebrew Arts School of the Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center for Music and Dance...and is still active as a vocal coach."

She was kind enough to send to me a cassette taken from a 1956 recording she made with the great Sidor Belarsky. The cassette is titled "Amol Is Geven A Maisheh." (Once Upon A Time.) The narration (in Yiddish) on the cassette was written and

performed by Joseph Mlotek and the musical arrangements and accompaniments are by Vladimir Heifets. In short, the entire work is a product of professionals in their field and among the best for their time.

The cassette came about as a result of radio programs presented by the Educational Department of the Workmen's Circle in New York on radio station WEVD. This cassette is a "condensed version" of the programs. (The address at the time was 45 East 33rd St., NY, NY 100167. I do not know if they are still there or if the cassette is still available or its cost.)

"Amol Is Geven A Maisheh" is "The story of Jewish life in Eastern Europe (in the late 19th century) as told in song."

Many Jews and others believe the only traditional Jewish music is klezmer music. T'aint so! Jewish people today are largely unaware of the great treasure of beautiful music in the categories of folk song as well as music composed for the legitimate Yiddish Theatre especially from the 1920's through the 1950's. Some of the pieces presented as folk songs were actually composed songs, the authors of these known now to only a fortunate few. Just one example is the lullaby "Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen" composed by Avrom (or Avram or if you prefer Abraham) Goldfaden.

At any rate, the songs on this cassette are a delight to hear. The singing by Sidor Belarsky and Masha Benya is nothing but first rate. Two thumbs up and six out of six. The Yiddish narration by Mr. Mlotek is as warm and user friendly as can be. Yiddish was the mother tongue to millions of Jews around the world. The Nazis and their willing helpers tried to destroy us physically but culturally as well. It is doubly unfortunate that the Nazis succeeded in murdering a third of our people but also largely succeeded in exterminating a culture and a language.

The gist of the narration is provided in the liner notes as well as the names of the songs sung and their context. Both vocal artists were recorded at the height of their considerable powers. The accompani-

Jewish Theater

'A Glimpse of the Light'

By IRENE BACKALENICK

The period of Jewish history (1945-48) when ships ran the British blockade to get Jewish refugees to Palestine is particularly meaningful to my



family. My brother-in-law Leon Lashner (later known as Ari Lashner) was deeply involved in that enterprise.

When Israel was declared a state and the blockade no longer existed, he joined his wife and child on Kfar Blum, only to be killed by an Arab sniper. Thus Ari Lashner remains fixed in history, specifically our family history.

No wonder I had great expectations for "A Glimpse of the Light," a new musical depicting that enterprise (The show has opened at the 14th Street Y Theater and plays until July 22.)

Unfortunately, "A Glimpse" never comes close to doing justice to the event. It trivializes the experience, never plumbing the depths. Ben Finn, who has written the book, music and lyrics, might well be writing about a day in the country. His piece focuses on four Jewish Holocaust survivors on shipboard (Act I)

and later at a kibbutz (Act 2). But though they struggle with seasickness, trade quips, linger over memories, they hardly seem to be experiencing strong emotions.

What would such refugees have actually felt while on such a ship? Bitterness, anxiety, desperation, terror, perhaps hope? Alas, "A Glimpse" barely hints at such emotions.

The show does have its shining moments. The actress who plays the heroine Rachel is a treasure, singing and performing beautifully. (It is ironic that the key actress of this very Jewish show should be a young lady named Kelly McCormick!) And Paul Haber comes across effectively as the tough, realistic Palestinian Shmuelik. The scenes where he exchanges quips with Esther (played by Dara Seitzman) a la Beatrice/Benedick style show promise. And Finn, to do him justice, has written some lovely tunes — particularly one lullaby and several ballads.

But mostly this feels like an amateurish effort, seen best as a work-in-progress. On the day we attended, we noted someone sitting to one side carefully taking notes. Hopefully it was the director or playwright planning changes.

"A Glimpse of the Light" has potential, but it has a long way to go. So far, we've had only a glimpse of a glimpse of the light.

ment by Mr. Heifets is sympathetic as well as admirable stylistically. It was a great pleasure for me to hear both artists singing such songs as "Her Nor, Du Sheyn Meidle," "Ay, Ay, Ay, Yoshke Fohrt Aveg," "Di Muzinka Oysgegebn," "Oyfn Veg Sheyt A Boyem" among many others.

I wish that the current crop of singer-entertainer-composers could hear Belarsky and Benya sing the songs they sang. Without naming names, it is as if an entire generation never even lived. They and most of the songs they sang are forgotten. These otherwise talented people today seem to be working from the outside looking in instead of vice-

versa. They simply do not know what they do not know.

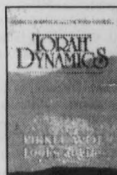
I cannot imagine a serious young violinist today not knowing performances by such as Heifetz, Elman, Stern among others. Or aspiring tenors ignorant of performances by Tucker, Tucker, Bjorling, Peerce, et al. Our artists today seem unfamiliar with those who came before them and ignorant of their predecessors' repertoire.

This cassette would make a good place to start their cultural and musical education.

As for Ms. Benya. With her clear, sweet lyric soprano voice, she was the perfect partner for Mr. Belarsky's mellifluous bass-baritone. Theirs was an ideal collabora-

Continued on next page

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Milk, Honey & Vinegar

Non-kosher, but good for Israel

By JUDY CARR

Though I do prefer to keep Kosher, occasionally I stray into a thoroughly non-Kosher shop near my home. This shop is kept by Russians and is a delight to go into, although all the foods are labeled in Russian, which makes it confusing.

You never saw anything like those pig meats, though I believe they also sell chicken and turkey. The shrimps, calamari and other shellfish might be worth a try.

I went in just to buy some cheese, because their cheese is ten times better than the other cheese sold locally. Trouble came when the girl handed me a bit of pig meat to try. She just meant to be polite.

"Oh, no," I said hastily. "I am going to buy some cheese."

This made everyone in the shop laugh.

You have to hand it to the Russians. When they arrived in Israel in their tens of thousands, they got off the planes lost people. In Russia their lives were ruled and organized. Here they did not know how to look for a job, where to go for the simplest thing. They had to be told you looked in the papers for a job or went to the employment exchange. Russians with high qualifications who should have had the best jobs were found doing the ironing in laundries.

Bit by bit they got themselves straight. Many organized themselves to run businesses. If those businesses included the import of non-Kosher food, who am I to complain, especially as I rather like their food. Today Russians are for the most part in jobs, opening their own shops and bringing products to Israel from distant parts of the world.

They are opening up Israeli business, contributing their knowledge of their countries of origin to bring Israelis there.

And this from people who, a few short years ago, were to run round and help, show them how to manage in a bank, even how to choose things in a supermarket.

If a Russian has qualifications for which a job cannot be found here, they are sent to learn a trade that is needed. Russians are sent to train as

locksmiths, as house painters, as household repairmen. They are working and happy; better off than many native-born Israelis. They learn the basics of Hebrew speedily.

So if you feel a bit troubled about pork in a country that is supposed to be Jewish, recollect that the Russians knew nothing of Jewish religion and customs for decades.

About Books

By JACK FISCHER

It may come as a surprise to most readers, but multi-millionaire (billionaire?) financier George Soros's father was not only a Holocaust sur-



vivor, but in 1965 wrote his memoir about surviving the Nazis.

The book, by Tivador Soros, edited and translated by Humphrey Tonkin, with Forewords by Paul and George Soros, was originally published in Esperanto and is called *Masquerade: Dancing Around Death in Nazi-Occupied Hungary*. In September the tome will be published in English by Arcade (\$24.95). At the time of the Nazi occupation of Hungary, the author was a Budapest lawyer, and managed to find false Christian papers that allowed him and his family to find places to hide.

A book that is receiving a great deal of pre-publication

But they chose to come to Israel, a poor country in a lot of trouble. They knew they were Jews.

If we don't want to eat their pig meat, we do not have to. The Russians deserve only praise, pork shops or not.

Judy Carr may be reached at 2412 Ingleside, I-C, Cincinnati, OH 45206.

press is *The Fragility of Goodness: Why Bulgaria's Jews Survived the Holocaust*, by Tzvetan Todorov, the author of the acclaimed *Facing Extremes — Moral Life in the Concentration Camps*. The book is translated by Arthur Danner and is published by Princeton University Press (\$26.95, July).

Nearly 50,000 Bulgarian Jews were spared deportation to the death camps although 11,000 Jews from the provinces of Thrace and Macedonia were sent to concentration camps where all but 12 died.

New information about the fate of Dutch Jews during the Nazi occupation is told by a former chaplain at the University of Waterloo in Ontario in *Where Was God? The Lives and Thoughts of Holocaust and World War II Survivors*, by Remkes Kooistra. Mosaic (\$20 paper, July).

A book that is both inspirational and a guide to greater spirituality is *The Ten Journeys of Life: Walking the Path of Abraham, A Guide to Being Human*, by Michael Gold. The author is a rabbi and the author of two other books on matters pertaining to Judaism. (HC/Simcha (\$10.95, this month).

Gold

Continued from prev. page
tion. I confess that while I recall her name, I do not recall her voice. Clearly the loss is mine. I want to publicly thank Ms. Benya for sharing her voice as well as her musical

artistry with me. It is a truly great voice from the past. Yasher Koach.

Dr. Gold may be reached at: 12 Avenue B, Rutland, VT 05701-4503 or by e-mail at: dmortongold@juno.com

E-mail us at:
jpost@jewishpostopinion.com

Fleishman's Flight

We're glad they went

By ALFRED FLEISHMAN

By the time this column is written, all of the families of the young students from Denver who are on the trip to Israel, or who have made it and



are safely home will have their opinions as to the value of the weeks of experience.

They are mostly at home and most of us are delighted that despite some opposition, they went. Particularly at this very important time in history.

They have met with the Israelis and received their personal thanks. They have been to their homes, kibbutzim, families and cities.

They have known and felt what it means to visit there, especially at this time. They will have seen and felt everything it meant to be among our people at this particular time. They will have their own

feelings and stories to tell.

I have been privileged to see and read most of the detailed events as they have been sent to the families by various modern methods. I shall quote only from the July 6 report.

"Speaking of Steve Zerobrick, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Israel's CAJE's partner, the founder and director of IST group. Steve is truly our partner, concerned with security as we all are. With Steve's IST on the ground in Israel we have been comfortable with our people..."

It is really a shame all people could not have seen the messages sent regularly from Israel, in which the families have seen or read regular reports. The reports have been well written and interesting. They also have proved that those who went were well advised and they can be more than appreciated for allowing their kids to share this rare experience in their lives.

Alfred Fleishman may be reached at PO Box 410108, St. Louis, MO 63141.

Aid from America hinders Israel private sector: report

JERUSALEM — US Jews and the US government can help Israel by helping less, says a new study reported in the Jerusalem Post.

The \$80 billion Israel has received since the nation's birth in 1948 from public and private sources in the U.S., has caused problems for Israel's economy, says the report on "The Impact of American Jewry on the Israeli Economy."

"The funds allowed Israelis to live beyond their means," said Warren Young, a professor of economics at Bar-Ilan University who wrote the report for the Dorothy and Julius Koppelman Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations of the American Jewish Committee and the Argev Center at Bar-Ilan U.

The Post reported that Young said American support was critical during Israel's early years but hampered private-sector activity during the past 25 years.

Young's report said the private sector could have had greater gains had it not been for the artificial rise in the standard of living and expansion of the public sector resulting from American-Jewish philanthropic contributions and U.S. aid.

Lack of accountability was the biggest problem with philanthropic aid, which totaled at least \$11 billion from 1948 to 1999, the report said.

Young said philanthropic aid ought to be designated for specific projects.

He said aid should be restructured to reflect the priorities of Jews in the U.S. in coordination with the Israeli government — and should be directed to specific organizations such as hospitals, universities and other charities.

Jewish renewal — inspiring more Jews every day

Two weeks ago, over 800 Jewish men and women, from all over the world united in Illinois for a special week-long biennial gathering called Kallah. The sponsoring organization, ALEPH, creates this event by bringing the best Jewish renewal

artists, leaders, performers, and teachers together for an incredible week of communal learning and celebration.

What is Jewish renewal and why is it gaining such momentum in so many Jewish communities?

Jewish renewal bills itself as a worldwide, trans-denominational movement grounded in Judaism's prophetic and mystical traditions. Jewish renewal carries forward Judaism's perpetual process of bringing creativity, relevance, joy, and an all-embracing awareness to spiritual practice, as a path to

finding balance and wholeness. Jewish renewal accepts all Jews, regardless of denomination, gender, or sexual orientation, who want to promote justice, freedom, responsibility, care for all life and the earth that sustains all life.



Reuven and Yehudit Goldfarb from Berkeley, CA.

By RONA
TRACHTENBERG

The Alliance for Jewish Renewal (ALEPH), originally known as B'nai Or (sons of light) and later as P'nai Or (faces of light), was founded in the 60's by Reb Zalman Schachter Shalomi. When ALEPH was formed in the mid 90's, it merged with other independent, yet related organizations such as The Shalom Center headed by Rabbi Arthur Waskow.

Reb Zalman joyfully fused his Lubavitch education in Jewish mysticism with the *ruach* (spirit) of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and the egalitarianism of the Haverah movement.

Reb Zalman and his followers say they are dedicated to reclaiming the Jewish people's sacred purpose of partnership with the Divine in the inseparable tasks of healing the world (*tikkun olam*) and healing the hearts (*tikkun halev*). ALEPH grassroots efforts nurture communities, develop leadership, create new liturgy and other resources, and work for social and environmental justice.

People in the movement say much of this healing takes place at Kallah — the success of which is attributed to coordinator, Cindy Gabriel, who recently moved from Fort Collins, Colo., to Boulder, Colo. The theme of this ninth convention was "Beyond and Within, Illuminating G-d Sparks in our History and our Lives."

In order to understand the importance of this event in terms of Jewish renewal, its advocates say, Lurianic kabbalah offers the following vision: During the creation of the universe, G-d took some of His own primal light and poured it into the vessels of the spheres of the universe. But the lower spheres were too weak to contain a light so powerful and they cracked. The sparks of light, which became separated from one another, wished to become reunited and return to the source of all light.

When we do conscious, caring acts for food, plants, the environment or another human being, when we thank G-d for having created a beautiful, strong or fragrant thing, when we take time for rest and make balance in our lives, we awaken the spark of light within. This flame rises higher and higher until it is reunited with its source.

The organizers of the Kallah hope that by gathering hundreds of Jewish renewal seekers, artists, authors, activists and teachers to dance, sing, learn and pray, the G-d sparks will illuminate amongst the participants.

Indianapolis resident Jennie Cohen attended this Kallah and reported on her experience.

"This year's Kallah was the first one that took place in the Midwest, about an hour west of Chicago, at Northern Illinois University. During most of the week the weather was ideal with temperatures in the 70's, blue skies and little humidity."

Jennie explained, "I was eager to participate in the singing, dancing and very festive spiritualism of Shabbat that I had previously enjoyed at Camp Blue Star in North Carolina, Hillel at Indiana and San Francisco State Universities, Brandeis Camp Institute and Elat

Chayyim in Woodstock.

"To me, Jewish renewal brings more *ruach* to traditional prayers. Especially in these turbulent times, it is important to have practices that help one to be grounded. Like the roots of a tree, it provides stability when there is a strong wind blowing."

Cohen's first contact with Jewish renewal was in 1984 at the Aquarian Minyan in Berkeley, Calif. — one of the first Jewish Renewal communities. She went to California to be close to her three sisters and to study at the Acupressure Institute. There she attended her first Kallah in 1993 and led a class on Jewish healing.

"I was so impressed with the Friday night service. Everyone wore white. The chanting, led by Shefa Gold and drumming in the small synagogue was so vibrant that I thought the roof was going to pop off. It was a very spiritual service," Cohen said.

"The nicest aspect of the Kallah," she said, "is getting together with like-minded Jews from all over the world who are striving to bring more emotion into their rituals and prayers."

"This kind of practice is meant to help individuals let go of old habits and behaviors that are keeping them from growing and becoming the best they can be. They want their Jewish faith to be more than just something to do on the Sabbath and holidays. They want to dig deep into the tradition to find ways to improve the world through their Jewish practice."

To accomplish this spiritual enlightenment, Kallah offered more than 30 different classes in a wide range of subjects, for example; Torah and Talmud study, meditation, kabbalah, how to start a Jewish renewal group, how to meet your soul mate, singing, dancing,

drumming, chanting, and artwork such as making a silk painted challah cover.

Kathy Ochs, also of Indianapolis, said, "I was amazed by the continual accessibility of very talented artists, musicians, and scholars." Cohen added, "There was always something to do from early morning to late evening. It was a real challenge trying to decide which classes to attend. I made sure I did some physical exercises (yoga, walking and

Zola Sturtz from Columbia, MO and Uriel Wolfe-Blank from Seattle, WA

swimming) each day to balance out the intensity of the study.

"In the evening there was time to socialize and attend programs with a variety of entertainment such as Wednesday's Cabaret Night."

Another of Cohen's objectives was to connect with old friends and acquaintances and meet new people. "I saw Reuven and Yehudit Goldfarb, from Berkeley. Yehudit was one of the founders of the Aquarian Minyan, one of several Jewish renewal groups in the San Francisco Bay Area. Also from there, I reunited with Miriam Stampfer, Moshe Shafir, Marsha Brooks, Marty Potrop, Naomi Robinson, and Elaine and Uri Wolfe-Blank who now reside in Seattle.

"I also got to catch up with Jackie and Leon Olenick, from Miami. I had met them in Bloomington, Ind., when they brought in Reb Zalman and Shlomo Carlebach several times to teach and officiate at their son and daughters' bar/bat mitzvahs in the 70's and

Continued on next page



Rosalie and Efraim Eisen from Florence, MA



Digest of the Yiddish Press Renewal

2 write of Polish ordeals

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Writing from Canada, S. Simchovitch is delighted to tell readers of the Forward that two books by Canadian Jewish writers have been pub-



lished by the press of Syracuse University.

The writers, both immigrants from Poland who came to Canada after World War Two, are Eva Rosenfarb and Yehuda Elberg. They both wrote in Yiddish but the published works are in English. Rosenfarb translated her own book from Yiddish into English. Elberg recounts the tribulations of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and Rosenfarb's book is about the same ordeal in the Polish City of Lodz.

13 to Ukraine

Thirteen students of a Boca Raton yeshiva spent two weeks in the Ukrainian City of Charkov in June.

They visited a yeshiva there and hobnobbed with the

students and made tours of the city's synagogues and Jewish cemeteries. They spoke no Russian and the Ukrainians spoke no English. They had to communicate in Hebrew.

They observed the holiday of Shavuot with the Yeshiva students. That included an all-night session of study. On their return they told their families that the experience was a moving one.

Conditions in the area they visited are not nearly as good as their lot here. Nonetheless, they said they were sorry when they had to depart. (Daniel Fleishman, in the Forward.)

Musical dispute

Should Jews perform works by Richard Wagner? There's no doubt that he was anti-Semitic. In Israel the Knesset voted unanimously to ask that Wagner's work be omitted in a forthcoming music festival. But Daniel Barenboim, who was planning to stage a Wagner opera at the event, scoffed at the measure. He indignantly said that it was unfair to prevent people from listening to the Wagner works. Nonetheless, according to the *Algemeiner Journal*, the Wagner opera was canceled.

Continued from prev. page 80's.

"One of the first new people I met was Ruth Durchslag, from Chicago. I liked the one sentence she used to describe Jewish renewal. She said, 'I'm glad someone put the heart back into Judaism.'" Over lunch, I met Will and Melissa Carpenter, from Salem, Ore. They told me they drive an hour to Portland every Friday in order to attend Jewish Renewal kabbalat Shabbat services with Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld.

In class I met Mimi Rogers, from Fremont, Neb. She was raised Catholic and met her Jewish husband at a Unitarian church. After 14 years of marriage she and her four children converted to Judaism."

Another good way to meet new people was at dinnertime. Every participant had a name tag with their hometown and class schedule. This way, it was possible to strike up a conversation based on common classes or questions about class feedback.

"I sat across from Robert 'Hesh' Saunders, from Pueblo, Colo., at dinner one evening," said Jennie. "We discovered we had both attended Indiana University and were both concerned about our aging parents. It was easy to talk with him not because of those two common experiences but because our basic beliefs, values and goals were similar."

Cohen, who is searching for her *basherte* (fated mate), attended the workshop called "Sparks of Love: Divine Encounters to Meet Your Soulmate and Your Soul," led by a very compassionate and compatible couple, Rosalie and Efraim Eisen met at a previous Kallah, married and decided to dedicate themselves to teaching "unattached adults" how they can meet in a more meaningful way. So far, two dozen people have married after attending this workshop.

The Eisens explained that a typical pick-up question is "What is your name, your horoscope sign and your job title?" A more useful question would be "If you had 48 hours and unlimited funds, what would you do?" The class was also infused with biblical stories, songs, meditations and small group discussions.

From a Jewish perspective, Adam and Eve were the first couple. When Abraham wanted Isaac to take a wife, he sent his servant to find her. The servant asked how he would know her? Abraham said an angel would send a sign to let

him know when he found the correct woman for Isaac.

The Eisens explained how, in their view, this would apply today. "The Divine needs to be in the equation to make it holy. Single people must clear their pasts before they can be open to meet someone new and special."

The week went by fast and before long, it was time for Shabbat — the high point in Kallah. Participants indulged in the mikvah (ritual baths) in preparation for the singing, learning and meditations. Many welcomed Shabbat with a contemplative walk, followed by the Kabbalat Shabbat service, festive meal and after-dinner celebrations.

Kallah offered a variety of Saturday morning services to meet everyone's needs. Cohen attended a "traditional renewal" service, using the *Sim Shalom* prayerbook, led by cantors Richard Kaplan, Robert Esformes and Sara Leya Schley. "I was very impressed with all the different sizes and colors of tallitot," Cohen said.

A friend, who chose Rabbi Marcia Prager's service, said, "this was the first time I ever sat through a three-hour Shabbat service and didn't look at my watch."

Some Jewish renewal prayer practices are different than those of denominations. The services are egalitarian. Women have full participation and can be rabbis and leaders. There is acceptance of and full participation by gays, lesbians, and bisexual Jews.

Also unique to Jewish renewal is the system for aliyot — calling people up to the To-

rah to chant the pre- and post prayers. There are always three aliyot and any Jew in attendance can go up on the bimah once, twice, or even all three times.

The rabbi chooses three topics directly relating to the Torah portion to be read that morning and dedicates one aliyah to each topic. The audience is told these three topics in advance so that they can decide which aliyah or aliyahs they want to come up for. There can be as many as 30 people on the bimah, arms linked, chanting the prayers en masse.

An example of a topic might be the story of Esau and Jacob. The rabbi would say, "all those having trouble with his/her sibling(s) come up and participate in this aliyah. When the aliyah was finished, a special *mishabeyrach* (healing prayer) would be said over the aliyah group to help them actualize the specific topic for which each chose to come to the Torah.

In this example, it would be something like "Let us be like Jacob and Esau and gain the courage to forgive our brother and/or sister."

The Shabbat was filled with private meditation, studying, resting, singing, dancing and playing together. The day ended with havdallah and a celebratory *melavah malkah* — to bid farewell to the Shabbat Queen.

Cohen found the havdalah service particularly moving. Rabbi Shefa Gold, a well-recorded singer with a retreat in New Mexico, set the tone by creating a spontaneous niggun (repetitive chant) to the tune

Continued on page 14

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Misconceptions

Few unable to give

By RABBI REUVEN BULKA

Misconception: The poor are exempt from giving charity.

Even a person who is sus-



tained by community charity must, in turn, give charity. The

giving of charity is a mitzvah (commandment), and there is no reason why this should apply only to select individuals.

Obviously, if by giving charity, the poor man is deprived of the food necessary for survival, then the giving of charity is set aside. But this is a suspension based on extreme circumstance, and no one should see personal poverty as automatic release from the obligation to be concerned about others.

Israel: As I See It

A return to normalcy

By SAMSON KRUPNICK

Against a background of continuing violence, there are concrete signs of a limited return to a degree of normalcy.

Functions are being held



with good attendance and happy occasions are being observed in hotels. Internally we have recovered our routine, and with caution and awareness of possible dangers lurking anywhere, are going about our "business as usual."

Internal tourism has boomed and Israelis are attracted by fantastic deals offered by desperate hotels throughout Israel. "Long weekends" are now enjoyed by many Israeli families on a regular basis during the vacation months.

Of greater encouragement is the resumption of overseas tourism. Many organizations have now scheduled numerous conferences in addition to the present increase in hotel reservations. A major attraction is the 16th Maccabiah opening with a huge program and parade in Olympic style at the mammoth Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem. Many thousands will participate in the 29 varied sports competitions in this international function held every four years. Particular emphasis is placed upon Jerusalem functions and attractions.

A series of activities held in Jerusalem in the past weeks all drew full attendance. The annual dinner of the Mercat Olami of Mizrahi, ("The World Mizrahi Movement Salutes Jerusalem") was held at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel with some 500 attending, including many from abroad. Honorees were Kurt Rothschild, Chairman of the Mizrahi World Organization; Dr. Zorach Warhaftig, Israel Prize winner, former Minister and Knesset Member; Aryeh L. Handler, president of the Mizrahi of Great Britain; and Mrs. Rivkah Burg, Hebrew born wife of the late great statesman Dr. Yosef Burg of

blessed memory.

Speakers included Knesset Chairman Avraham Burg, Mafdal Chairman Rabbi Yitzhak Levi, Mayor Ehud Olmert and the Rishon Letzion Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu. The International Conference of Emenah women drawing a wide attendance, was conducted capably by the experienced and talented ladies, the Israel Chairlady Yehudit Hibner and the International Chairlady Pinah Herzog.

A unique function was the Beit Orot dinner Concert held at the Jerusalem Renaissance

Honorees were Ilan Gordo and Henry Zeleniec, each a "Shomer Yerushalayim." Speakers were Mayor Olmert, Minister for Jerusalem Rabbi Eliyahu Swissa and Knesset Member Benny Elon. All agreed that action rather than words are the orders of the day.

"Creating facts on the ground" is the way to strengthen Jerusalem now and forever more. All enjoyed the concert of Carlebach, Chassidic and cantorial music of Ben Zion Solomon and sons. Of particular interest was a paper distributed by the

Internal tourism has boomed and Israelis are attracted by fantastic deals offered by desperate hotels throughout Israel. "Long weekends" are now enjoyed by many Israeli families on a regular basis during the vacation months. Of greater encouragement is the resumption of overseas tourism. Many organizations have now scheduled numerous conferences in addition to the present increase in hotel reservations. A major attraction is the 16th Maccabiah opening with a huge program and parade in Olympic style at the mammoth Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem. Many thousands will participate in the 29 varied sports competitions in this international function held every four years. Particular emphasis is placed upon Jerusalem functions and attractions.

Hotel and enjoying an attendance of over 400 enthusiastic supporters. This hesder Yeshiva on the Mount of Olives was founded in 1990 by Knesset Members Benny Elon and Chanan Porat. Apart from their fantastic growth in the past decade, they have developed areas in Ras al Amud and other Jewish owned land in vital parts of Jerusalem.

Director Chaim Silberstein has worked with Rabbi Benny Elon to expand Jewish occupancy with great success.

Middle East Community of Democratic States proposing "a regional solution to bring stability in the Middle East." A Marshall plan is to reunite all Arab Palestinian people in Jordan Palestine including returnees.

"The Democratic Arab Palestinian Transjordan together with the State of Israel, with Syria-free Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of Turkey will form the nucleus of the Middle East Economic

Continued on next page

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RABBI

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Quotation of the week

By RABBI SHARON COHEN

Recently, I was asked to lead a study session on "Jewish Spirituality" at the CKJFs young leadership event. It sounds like a simple assignment, but frankly, I have always been rather uncomfortable with the term "spirituality." How do we define this word? What does it mean to be "spiritual?" It is certainly a word that has taken on multiple meanings, as terms such as "New Age" and "Kabbala" fill the modern American vocabulary.

Knowing that my investigation of the topic would be a great challenge (there are no classes entitled "Spirituality" in rabbinical school!), I began at the beginning: with the word itself. In Hebrew, "spirituality" is translated as ruhamiyut. It derives from the word ruah, which means both "wind" and "spirit," and was seen by the ancients as a mysterious, Godly wind that blows through the world. The word ruah goes back as far as Genesis 1:2: "a wind from God or 'the spirit of God' hovered over the face of the waters." Although the term is based on a Biblical concept, ruhamiyut is a word that is not part of the Biblical way of thinking. In fact, the word does not appear in Hebrew until the Middle Ages. Hebrew tended toward the concrete and pictorial. It did not have terms for the sorts of abstract concepts that filled the philosophical tracts of the Medieval Jewish philosophers. The translators remedied this by expanding the Hebrew language, taking ancient roots and finding new ways to create words out of them. Thus, the word ruhamiyut was born.

In essence, ruhamiyut – "spirituality" – refers to that which contains the presence of God. Modern thinkers define spirituality as a process. One thinker defines spirituality as "an effort to recapture the questions that have been lost in the modern pace of life. It is a renewal of the search for meaning, the quest for purpose, the journey toward the divine that propels the human enterprise on earth. It is a renewal of that sense of wonder that the age of industry and technology almost snuffed out. Spirituality is the music of our lives. And God is the conductor."

Daniel, Matt, a modern Jewish theologian, writes, "Our spiritual task is to discover the divine sparks in each person and situation we encounter in life, to become aware that every single thing we do, see, touch, or imagine is part of the oneness, a pattern of energy. Raising the sparks is a powerful metaphor. It transforms religion from a list of do's and don'ts or a list of dogmas, into a spiritual adventure."

In Judaism, the underlying pillar of this spiritual adventure is Torah. It helps us to ask and to answer the fundamental questions of our lives and "discover the divine sparks" that exist in the world. The Psalms, for example, are the records of individual spiritual quests; records of someone's weaving together hope, wonderment, rejoicing, despair, and confidence. Jewish blessings and prayers help us to appreciate the gifts we have and to express awe and wonderment of the things that touch our lives. For Judaism, spirituality resides in action. It is a way of doing, a way of responding, and not just a way of thinking or being.

Thus, Jewish rituals and actions become vehicles for spiritual expression and tools for helping us find meaning in the random nature of life. Acts such as donning a talit (prayer shawl), choosing what to eat at a restaurant, reciting the Sh'ma, studying Jewish text with friends, celebrating a life-cycle event, acknowledging the beauty of a rainbow, even building a house for those in need, can be "spiritual" experiences if we open our hearts and minds to the universal and eternal principles behind them.

Judaism is a faith based on community, and, as such, our quest to find God's presence – to find the spiritual – cannot be a solitary one. We were not put on the earth solely to find ourselves, or fulfill ourselves. We find holiness – we reach for the best within ourselves – by reaching outward to others and to the world around us. We strive to see the face of God in one another, and to perform tasks that mirror God's compassion and strength. In connecting to each other, we can help one another to see the Divine in all that we do.

After more than an hour of discussion and sharing among those attending the CKJF event, we had barely scratched the surface on the topic of "spirituality." Sitting along the lake under the starry night sky, we did...however, have a sense that, each in our own way, we all can be a part of this spiritual journey – the quest to connect with the Divine energy that fuels the world and to find meaning in who we are and all that we do. It is a start, to be sure. – Rabbi Cohen serves Ohavay Zion Synagogue, Lexington, KY.

Jews By Choice

Recommitment

By MARY HOFMANN

It all began the last Saturday of June, as I was sitting with a group of Jewish women friends at a local bar mitzvah.



One of the boy's uncles, sitting up a couple of rows, was wearing the most beautiful talit I've ever seen. From a distance it seemed to be embroidered with scenes of Jerusalem in colors so vivid it took my breath away.

"I want a talit just like that one," I whispered to Carol, who stared at it in wonder, then turned to point it out to Ardene. A few minutes later, Carol (ever the social butterfly) leaned over to me and whispered enthusiastically, "I've got a great idea!"

At every lapse in the service, the plan began to take shape. "We need to have a recommitment ceremony," Carol said. "Think about it. It is the women of this congregation who've held it all together all these years. We've all hosted bar and bat mitzvahs for our children, but none of US has ever had one."

Eileen, on my left, looked alarmed. "But I can't learn all that Hebrew at this point in my life!"

"You won't have to," continued the devious Carol. "It won't be a b'nai mitzvah, exactly. It will be a recommitment. Surely we can each learn a portion of a portion!"

"And if we each pitch in, we can have a really huge party afterwards," chimed in Celina from behind me.

"Perhaps a klezmer band and lots of food and everybody gets to invite a bunch of people..." Renee interjected from beside Celina. "And we each need to buy a new, gorgeous talit for the occasion," whispered Sylvia. "We'll search through catalogs together and find exactly the ones we've always wanted."

"We deserve this. We really do," Judith pitched in. "A great celebration of who we are, what we've accom-

plished, and what we want for ourselves and our future."

And so the basics were settled before the bar mitzvah gave his d'var Torah.

After the service, I approached Amy, our student rabbi, who thought it a terrific idea. "Maybe next year at Shavuot," she said. "That will give us lots of time. And YOU, my dear Miriam," she nailed me with a stare, "are

house in the mountains), I shall have with me several important items:

Books (of course, books) Crocheting (which I took up as therapy when I got sick and I'm now making gorgeous blankets for everyone I know).

Hebrew workbooks. I still have my primer, an overview of a service, and a workbook for script. If any of you have

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going to work on your Hebrew this summer so, at least for YOU, it will be a real bat mitzvah!"

So my summer is set. Whatever else I do, wherever I may go (like to my sister's

any suggestions (I'm a veteran beginner), please let me know!

And notice. I'm planning ahead! I've been afraid to plan ahead for two years, but I'd really like to stay alive for this one!

Krupnick

Continued from prev. page
Community of Democratic States on the model of the EEC."

The border between the Arab Palestinian State of Jordan and the State of Israel will remain the Jordan River. This is a novel proposal requiring a new approach to peace in

the area.

Meanwhile our short term effort is the full return to normalcy.

Samson Krupnick may be reached at 22 Pinsky, Jerusalem 92228, Israel) e-mail krup@barak-poline.net jewishpostopinion.com



It's Arlene Peck!

Moi? Bash men? Never!

By ARLENE PECK

Maybe I'm getting old. Or, maybe I'm beginning to slack off.

At least that's what I'm picking up from you readers



out there. I've been getting a few letters from you guys complementing me on my 'fine writing' and astute political insight.

Recently, a Samuel M. Ginsburg wrote to tell me, "Arlene, I enjoy your columns immensely, except of course, when you are on a male-bashing binge. Fortunately, that hasn't happened much lately." However, it reminded me that I shouldn't slack up on the subject that I've been writing on here for so many years, that being men. I'd almost forgotten the fun I have had doing my "bash" columns.

I know, I know, for months I've been going on about the dangers of having an idiot in the White House. All those frivolous fears that I had for all those silly social issues such as the environment, women's rights, business issues, education and lack of world leadership that I've been proven right on in such a short time. I've gone on and on about the dangers that I've seen for Israel, almost on a non-stop basis.

But, hey, that's nothing new. I should be used to it now. Sometimes, I just have to shout, "I told you so!" when I see my prophecies have come to pass. I wrote endlessly about the dangers, caused by Shimon Peres arming his "Palestinian Army" to the tune of 70,000 guns. And, now I'm freaking out when I see the very same airports and seaports that he pushed so hard for Arafat's access are now carrying heavy artillery and missiles. Oh yes, and bombs that will surely be used to attack Israel.

Ah, but I digress. Men bashing.

Today, I'm not going to let myself get stressed about political issues. Social issues are

ever so much more fun to write about. Men are basic and just so easy to write and discuss in my column. And, remember readers, when I write, I don't have to be factual. I'm a columnist. It's my opinion about what I'm saying.

So forget those nasty letters.

Back to the topic of men, or, the lack thereof. I know so many women who are running around bemoaning the fact that they don't have husbands. They obviously have never had one. They needed me to tell them that it might

that I take control of the situation." Ah, but if she tries the same behavior, seeking to be the stronger one, he'll think, "What a controlling, manipulative, egomaniac etc."

For years, I've written that certain things get better with age. Fine wine, women and antiques are high on that list. Though, it's not necessarily in that order. Not so with men.

It's much better to get them young and break them in right. Men are also like a fine wine. They start out as grapes. It's our job to stomp them, and then keep them in the dark until they mature. And hope-

It's much better to get them young and break them in right. Men are also like a fine wine. They start out as grapes. It's our job to stomp them, and then keep them in the dark until they mature. And hopefully they'll turn out to be something we would like to have dinner with. Jewish women are not appreciated as we should be. We are maligned and what a fallacy that we are told that that we are cold. There is absolutely no truth in the report that the Harvard School of Medicine did a study of why Jewish women like Chinese food so much and concluded it was because Won Ton spelled backwards is Not Now.

just be better to have a man in your life than in your house. I taught long ago that the differences between men and women are just so basic. A woman wants one man to satisfy her every need. A man wants every woman to satisfy his one need.

Too many women have never learned that the worst thing about having a man you can't control is having one that you can. Women are just so stifled. While a man is thinking, "She loves me for the way

fully they'll turn out to be something we would like to have dinner with.

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Advice By Edlin

She wants to be a Catholic

By RITA EDLIN

Q: I'm almost 30 years old. I was raised a Jew. I went to Sunday school and I was confirmed. My family celebrated all the holidays.



Three years ago I married a Catholic man and both our families have been very careful to respect one another. We all get along pretty well. His family feels just as strongly about their religion as mine does. We celebrate Christmas with them and have Hanukkah and Seders with my family. Everything seemed O.K., until I told my mother that I was going to convert to Catholicism. She didn't say a word, but I could tell from the look on her face that she was devastated. I know she loves me and doesn't want to lose me.

How can I explain to her now this much means to me? Through Catholicism, I feel a spiritual connection to God. I never experienced that through Judaism. My husband's not religious at all. He doesn't care if I go to church or temple. Mom won't talk about it and I'm afraid to bring it up. We just act as if nothing happened. I do love her and I hate having to hurt her. But I want her to understand what it means to me. Do you think I should try to get her to come to church with me? - P.P., Dallas.

A: Not unless she's looking for a new spiritual life! Do you really think an hour in church will make a convert of her? Or - make your conversion less painful for her? If so, take a little time out to think. A visit to your church would do little to diminish the anguish she must feel. And it might actually rub salt in a festering wound. My guess is that your "spiritual life" is just the tip of the iceberg.

Most people have faith in the religion they were taught as children. I can't help wondering why you didn't. And my guess is that your mother wonders, too. She may even think she did something to cause it. So you could reassure her, if that is not the case.

You wonder what else you can do to ease the tension with your mother. You say she was "devastated" when she heard about your conversion. You wonder how you can change that. And I'm not sure you can. Only your mother knows - so ask her. If she pleads with you to reconsider, do just that.

You didn't ask if Catholicism was the best or only religion that could offer you a rich spiritual life. Have you explored any others? If "spirituality" is the connection one feels to one's God, wasn't it Judaism that first conceived of a "spiritual life"? As a child in Sunday school, you may have missed that. But as an adult, you could explore that more fully.

It is important for you to live the life that is best for you, not for your mother. And religious faith is important. It is comforting and sustaining. But so is the relationship of a child to her parent. So you must weigh the importance of your newfound faith against the importance of your feelings for your mother. And you must be sincere.

If you want your mother to understand what Catholicism means to you, you must try to understand what Judaism means to her. She was "devastated" to learn of your plans to convert. To her, that may mean more than a new way for you to find spiritual nourishment.

Judaism is more than holidays and ritual. There is also family and community life, tradition, history, ethics, lore and law. Jews are a people as well as a religion. The loss, then, for your mother, may be the loss of the link between the generations of her ancestors and those yet to come, if you should have children. Your conversion, then, would represent the loss of her past as well as her future.

Even if she could understand what your new religion means to you, it wouldn't diminish that personal loss.

You've both avoided talking about it because that confrontation could cause a permanent rift, which neither of you wants. But avoiding discussion could be more destructive in the long run. The hurt feelings, confusion, and guilt won't go away. This is a

Continued on next page



Pastoral care guide valuable

Reviewed by RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

Jewish Pastoral Care (A Practical Handbook for Traditional and Contemporary Sources), edited by Rabbi Dayle A. Friedman. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2001. 422 pp., \$35.00.

A director of the Geriatric Chaplaincy Program and spiritual director at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbi Dayle Friedman, who earned master's degrees in both Jewish Communal Services and Social Work, was from 1985 to 1987 director of Chaplaincy Services at Philadelphia Geriatric Center.

We are indeed grateful to her for a treasured comprehensive resource finally within reach for professional and layperson alike. While the theme of Pastoral Care is not new to Jewish tradition, in fact as old as that, the modern scene has brought about the need to professionally update and recognize new developments in an expanding field

and discipline.

Till quite recently Christian scholars and seminaries have led the professional development of Pastoral Care with Jewish attention catching up, aided by and supporting the Jewish healing and renewal movements. Jewish seminars now offer clinical pastoral education programs to train future rabbis to gain a better handle on helping individuals and congregations cope with current societal ills and afflictions.

Surely we have learned that contemporary Jews, whether in the United States or in Israel, are not immune to problems at large as we have become an integral part of Western society and culture with their advantages and deficiencies.

I learned early on upon assuming my first pulpit in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1974, that in order to serve my congregation better and help myself

as well I needed further training, which I was fortunate to receive in a local hospital, leading to being the first rabbi to earn in 1980 a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Chicago's McCormick Theological Seminary, which is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, USA. My other Jewish alma mater, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has begun a similar degree program.

The well-designed book in the attractive and useful format of *Jewish Lights Publishing* hallmark performance, is divided into three sections. From Foundational Concepts for Jewish Pastoral Care, to Basic Tools for the Jewish Pastoral Caregiver, to Jewish Pastoral Care for Special Needs and Settings. The last category deals with such concerns as Premarital Counseling, Domestic Violence, Confronting Addiction and Grief and Bereavement.

The various accomplished contributors who have already made a difference to the field in their specialized area, represent the rich and enriching rainbow of the Jewish religious movements. They all share the common goal of reaching out to respond to the acute, multiple and challenging conditions of all those they faithfully serve, enabling our people to recognize that Judaism and Jews can be relevant to their lives, merging historical theology and practice with contemporary insight and technique, along with that unique quality, defined by the author as "Hitlavit Ruchanit," Spiritual Accom-

panying, capable of leading to "Hitlavit Ruchanit," Spiritual Joy and Contentment.

Rabbi Friedman, compassionately embracing the cared for and caregiver, teaches us: "May the Source of Life, the Merciful One, accompany us as we join with those in pain

and need. May we find strength and inspiration. May our presence be comforting and transformative. May we never feel alone in our caring work." And let us say Amen.

Rabbi Zoberman serves Congregation Beth Chaverim, Virginia Beach, VA.

Gertel

Continued from page 5

that the writers dismiss the possibility of close friendship between Gentile and Jew. Or are they saying that it depends on the extent to which the Gentile can free himself or herself from anti-Semitic prejudice?

The film does not allow us to ruminate too much on such questions. It keeps guiding us to the theme of the effect of sadness and tragedy on all the significant members of Chaja's world, which is, all along, a Jewish world. In one unforgettably beautiful sequence, the camera scrutinizes each floor of the apartment house in which Chaja's parents and their neighbors reside. We see that there is not one household in which the sadness and loss of the Holocaust have not left a lasting effect of sorrow, rancor, and even bizarre behavior.

Yet this is no simplistic declaration that survivors and their children are doomed to such emotional and familial devastation. Hence, the hopeful highlighting of Chaja's courageous, headlong march, from this very building, into the very countenance of un-

speakable sadness.

At one point, Chaja's father complains, "The Hasidic are such fools." He elaborates that they are "still back in the ghettos of Europe" after "hundreds of years of being humiliated." They still wear the clothes of those dark times. "Do I still wear the clothes of the concentration camps?" he asks.

But the truth the film conveys is that it is not clothes, not even religion, that imprisons, but the failure to face grief, at least enough to deal with it. The film is, in this respect, very much a product of our "therapeutic age," to use Philip Rieff's phrase.

But it is a therapy that brings parents close to children and Jews closer to their fellow Jews, even though, as the ending suggests, it will not necessarily break the cycle of lives dominated by the Holocaust, even in "carefree" moments. Still, there is the hope that, through Chaja, the cycle will be broken at least enough for future generations to function with freedom and yet with loyalty to the past and to family memories, and, above all, with appreciation of them.

Renewal

Continued from page 10
of the popular Israeli dance shaf-teh may-im.

While the Kallah has ended, the momentum created will be brought back and shared with many communities. Today, there are over 41 Havurah-type renewal congregations in 25 American states, with nine international centers in seven countries. They are all listed at the website www.jewishrenewal.org.

Alternatively, ALEPH's rabbinic director, Rabbi Daniel Siegel, will bring Jewish renewal to you. Siegel is a certi-

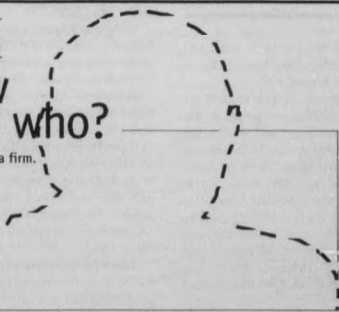
fied mediator who travels throughout North America assisting communities with conflict resolution and helping them with their visioning processes.

Or one can take matters into their own hands. Diana Epstein, from Satellite Beach, Fla., enjoyed the week so much she told her mother that she would have to move to a city that has a Jewish renewal group. Her mother persuaded her to stay at home and they would find a way to start one in their area.

Mystery Person

Do you know who's who?

• The Mystery Person founded and heads a firm.



All Mystery Persons are limited to North American Jews. Winners of the Mystery Person contest will receive a two-month subscription, the equivalent of \$8 if not a subscriber, or, if a subscriber, a two-month extension of their subscription. Once appearing in the contest, that same individual will not be repeated as a Mystery Person. All correct answers are considered winners, not only the first received.

Edlin

Continued from prev. page
volatile situation, with many personal and universal emotions. It would be best, when you are ready to talk about it, for you to do so with the help of a professional person—maybe a clergyman trained in interpersonal relationships.

Your husband doesn't care if you go to church or temple. You love your mother and hate having to hurt her. The only reasonable advice I can offer is for you to explore the spiritual side of Judaism before you convert. You didn't get that in your childhood—you focused only on the rituals and holidays. But now, as

an adult, you might find the secret of what has enabled the Jews to survive through the Crusades, the Inquisition, the pogroms and the Holocaust.

I'm sure you realize that you have written to a family counselor who writes for a Jewish newspaper. So my answer is admittedly biased. An advice columnist for a Catholic paper might offer a different perspective. But you have written to me. And I have offered the best advice I can—as a therapist and as a Jew.

Rita Edlin may be reached at 2412 Ingleside, I-C, Cincinnati, OH 45206.

Book Reviews

Translating Israel

Review by SYBIL KAPLAN

"Translating Israel" by Alan L. Mintz, Syracuse University Press, \$19.95 paperback, 274 pp.

Professor Mintz teaches Hebrew literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has a great deal of concern and feeling about Israeli writers and their literature because it tends to remain in a circumscribed environment.

To correct this issue, he presents two objectives. He analyzes the steps in which Hebrew writing from Israel gets translated, published, received and distributed in the U.S. He then takes ten books by six authors, all written in the 1970s and 1980s, and analyzes them vis-à-vis their reviewers in elite publications because they represent the first appearances of the writ-

ers in English.

He explains that books by Israelis that are received are taken seriously and "written about thoughtfully," but do not sell in quantity in the U.S. and do not have a great impact on American Jews. In fact, Israeli novels do better in French, German and Italian than in English. And he tells us an interesting fact.

"By the 1980s, women writers had become among the most visible and creative voices in Israeli fiction." Professor Mintz seems to say that Americans prefer to read popular works about Israel written in English by American writers than translations of Israelis' Hebrew works.

The professor devotes three chapters to S.Y. Agnon

whom he considers the greatest Jewish writer of modern times. He discusses Aharon Appelfeld, who "constructs all of his writing... under the sign of the Holocaust." He calls A.B. Yehoshua "Israel's greatest living writer" and David Grossman, a "rising star in the firmament of Israeli literature." Meir Shalev is the youngest Israeli writer of note.

In this rather academic but very readable work, he concludes that Israeli writing "will continue to be a provocative and engaging enterprise, and it will continue to become increasingly inclusive."

Professor Mintz also projects that we may see writing from immigrants of the Soviet Union and Ethiopia in the future but that Israeli literature will become less Jewish and more Israeli.

As one who had read all of the writers the professor mentions, in translation and within the past few years (a period on which he does not touch), I have to take issue with the assertion that Americans are not reading these authors. It very much depends on the interest level of the reader and the exposure.

I was first introduced to Aharon Appelfeld in 1998 with *The Conversion* and found his terse, concise yet powerful style shocking when coupled with the dark theme. Reading Appelfeld makes the reader think and consider his purpose in writing and savor every word he writes because there are few. In 1999 *The Iron Tracks* was riveting and strange and the sensitive, controlled writing style was something to get used to because the subject matter was so compelling.

Grossman's books have been in translation during the mid to late 1990s and I simply had no interest in reading them.

I gave up on Meir Shalev's book *Esau*, but I made it through *The Loves of Judith*, which held my attention to the end, read well and had an original theme and an intriguing and absorbing presentation.

Journey to the End of the Millennium by Yehoshua is eloquent writing with a fascinating story line as long as one

has time to read and read the intricacies.

All of this is by way of saying, it appears that in the period not covered by Professor Mintz more readable examples of these authors have been translated into English and have made some headway into being read. In all these cases, I know there were

other Jewish people reading these authors because they were interested in the subjects about which Israelis were writing.

This is definitely a good guidebook to read as a companion to reading some of the more recent translations of Israeli authors.

Clean up Knesset talk says Avital

JERUSALEM — Colette Avital, chair of the parliamentary ethics committee, has launched a campaign to clean up the bad language that sometimes prevails. Former Ambassador to Portugal and consul-general in New York, she objects to language such as anti-Semites, blood-suck-

ers, traitors, Nazis, fifth-columnists, terrorists, parasites, vermin, well-poisoners, cheats and back-stabbers. She said those are only a sample and that the final straw came when an Arab member of the Knesset was told he should be put up against a wall and shot.

Why Jews should not be liberals

RALFIGH, N.C. — The volume, "Why Jews Should Not Be Liberals" published by the Pentland Press here will be issued shortly and is expected

to arouse comment in the Jewish community. The work is by Larry Sternberg, a CPA who is a first time author.

How to give

Reviews by CLAIRE GRANOWITZ

My Grandfather's Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD. Riverhead Trade Paperback; \$14.00

www.penguinputnam.com

Many of you will remember Dr. Remen from her previous bestseller, *Kitchen Table Wisdom*.

My Grandfather's Blessings is a compilation of inspiring stories of ordinary people who discover they can make a difference. This transformation occurs as people bear witness to our common humanity.

Rachel Remen's grandfather was an Orthodox rabbi steeped in the mysticism of the Kabbalah. Although raised by parents whose focus was the scientific method above all, her grandfather taught her to see holiness in all life and the need to act from the heart.

It apparently was her personal struggle with Crohn's Disease and her work with cancer patients that brought her back to the understanding that love and compassion are as vital to healing as clinical expertise.

The concept that defines service as a way of life is at the core of this book.

"Service is not duty or obligation or self sacrifice. Service is about taking life personally, letting the lives that touch yours really touch you," Dr. Remen explains. She says, "it is not about fixing life, outwitting life, or trying to gain mastery over life. We serve with who we are and not with what we know. Sometimes all it takes is a brief touch, an unexpected phone call, a warm smile."

Good advice for all. *Divorce Rules for Men: A Man to Man Guide for Managing Your Split and Saving Thousands* by Martin M. Shenkman and Michael Hamilton John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

\$14.95 paperback
Divorce Rules for Men bills itself as the essential guide for soon to be divorced men, advising on the personal, legal and financial aspects of the divorce process.

Martin Shenkman is an attorney in private practice concentrating on divorce valuation matters as well as divorce tax planning.

Topics covered include how to cut down on alimony, issues regarding child support and property settlement, how to deal with lawyers, as well as the court experience.

Letters

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS — *The Post and Opinion encourages readers to send letters. All letters to the editor should be addressed to The Jewish Post and Opinion, 238 S. Meridian St., Suite 502, Indianapolis, IN 46225, e-mail: jpost@surf-ic.com. All letters should be typewritten and may be edited for publication. Unsigned letters will not be considered, but signatures may be withheld upon request.*

Reader suggests these news sources

Dear editor,
Although you had printed my letter advocating American-Jewish mobilization to counter media presentations, letters-to-the-editor and talk-show call-ins which are slanted against Israel, I still see no weekly boxes in the Post & Opinion guiding our people to sources which tell what is really happening and which focus onto where and how to respond.

The following are probably the best sources:
CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America)
PO Box 35040

Boston, MA 02135-0001
Web-site: www.camera.org

HONEST REPORTING
158 W. 56th Street
New York, NY 10019
Web-site: www.honestreporting.com

AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee)
440 First Street, N.W.
Suite 607
Washington, DC 20001
web-site: www.aipac.org

JCCAT (Jerusalem Center for Communications and Advocacy Training)
POB 2534
Jerusalem 91024, Israel
e-mail: jccat@iname.com
Arthur Rabin